



cultivated plant taxonomynews

Issue 3 ■ April 2015

BAMBOOS
a new ICRA

straightening
out
bananas

CAMELLIA
cultivation in
Shanghai

Sharing in the future of cultivated plant taxonomy

James Armitage
EDITOR

It can be difficult in the modern world of work to look beyond the infinitely receding to-do list or the heaving inbox, overflowing with unanswered emails. It is an irony that in enabling us to communicate more quickly and widely than ever before, recent developments in technology have eroded the time available to build and nurture fruitful and progressive working relationships. A long-time ambition of mine has been that Hortax should act to help remedy this by bringing cultivated plant taxonomists together to attain shared goals and tackle problems in a collaborative way.

It was with this aim firmly to the fore that the European Cultivated Plant Taxonomists Forum was conceived. This three-day conference will be held at RHS Garden Wisley in April 2015 and Hortax, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, will host over 40 delegates from around the continent. Among those attending are representatives from the fields of cultivar registration, collection curation, research, database administration and plant variety testing. Eighteen presentations are to be given covering topics as diverse as the taxonomic confusion surrounding cultivated bamboos, the naming of cultivars in statutory EU registers and the perplexing problems of names which can't be considered names. As important as these, however, is the time devoted to discussion and the opportunity to talk face to face. It is an



exciting moment for cultivated plant taxonomy in Europe and I look forward to the event with eager anticipation.

But it is not just in Europe that work is under way cataloguing plants in cultivation and in this edition of *CPT News* we feature two articles from China. Shi Junyi and Jin Xiaobai provide an update on the recently established Bamboo Register while Zhang Ya-li of Shanghai Botanical Garden discusses some innovative *Camellia* breeding and characterises four newly registered cultivars. Elsewhere, Heather Campbell reports on the European Cultivated Potato Database developed at Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture and Rhiannon Crichton summarises the efforts being made by Bioversity International to provide a stable nomenclature for banana cultivars. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. ■

Above. *Disa uniflora* 'Christmas Gold' (RHS / Tim Sandall). The conference will include a talk on orchid nomenclature by International Registrar Julian Shaw.

Hortax news

Classic works available online

One of the most famous and valuable works in horticultural taxonomy, Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, is now available online. The website has been developed by the International Dendrology Society and is entirely free of charge to access. The text replicates exactly that found in the 8th edition of the work which appeared in four volumes and a supplement in 1988. Future updates may allow the classification used in the books to be linked to modern nomenclatural and taxonomic treatments. The site offers searching or browsing facilities. To try it out, visit www.beanstreesandshrubs.org

In addition, work to bring the classic Alpine Garden Society *Encyclopaedia of Alpines* online is well advanced. Much information is already available but the process of proof-reading and editing is ongoing. One exciting innovation to come is the addition of images from the AGS website. Go to <http://encyclopaedia.alpinegardensociety.net>

RHS Colour Chart updated

The 6th edition of the RHS Colour Chart is expected to be published in May 2015. First appearing in 1939 as the Horticultural Colour Chart under the auspices of the British Colour Council, this is one of the most valuable means available of standardising the colours of cultivated plants. Distinctive for the

Right. The RHS Colour Chart in use with a dahlia specimen in the Herbarium, Wisley. Below. Amounting to more than 4,000 pages, the four volumes and supplement of Bean's *Trees and Shrubs* are now available free of charge online.



fan-like arrangements of its colour cards, the new edition will feature two new cards of green colours and additional cards in red, pink and purple. Over the years the Chart has been put to a range of uses outside horticulture and, amongst other things, has found employment in measuring the colour of baked beans, bananas, love birds and artificial eyes.



PHOTOS: RHS / GEORGI MABEE (CHART); RICHARD SANFORD (BEAN).

News (cont.)

NATAG decisions now on Hortax website

The conclusions arrived at by NATAG (the Nomenclature and Taxonomy Advisory Group) are now available on the Hortax website. NATAG is an advisory body of the Royal Horticultural Society that considers potentially controversial questions of taxonomy and nomenclature affecting the listings in *RHS Plant Finder*. It is hoped that publishing the Group's decisions in this way will help keep horticulturists and gardeners abreast of recent taxonomic developments. Go to www.hortax.org.uk/natag-decisions.html

Tilia checklist published

The second of two parts of a checklist of *Tilia* cultivars has been published in the 2014 *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Dendrologischen Gesellschaft* (Yearbook of the German Dendrological Society).



The first part appeared in the same publication in 2013. Compiled by Dr Andreas Plietzsch, horticulture expert at Humboldt University of Berlin, and Eike Jablonski of LTA Arboretum, Luxembourg, this is a major contribution to the study of a genus important in both horticulture and forestry.

EU plant legislation withdrawn

The proposed EU Plant Reproductive Material legislation has been withdrawn following the vote against the proposals by the EU Parliament reported on by John David in issue 2 of *CPT News* (www.hortax.org.uk/uploads/4/1/3/5/4135326/cultivated_planttaxonomynewsjune14issue2_higher_res.pdf).

Concerns regarding the regulations had been widely expressed with fears that breeders might have had to pay between around €400 and €700 to register plant names. The likely effect of such a cost was considered to be a rapid decline in the diversity of plants in cultivation.

Above. It is widely understood that a broad circumscription of the genus *Aster* runs contrary to the phylogenetic relationships of the species included. Consequently, in the botanical world the use of the genus *Symphyotrichum* has been adopted for many of the species grown in gardens. Horticultural nomenclature has gradually followed suit and NATAG recommended this change be followed in *RHS Plant Finder*. Thus *A. koraiensis* (above) remains in *Aster*, whereas *A. novi-belgii* and *A. novae-angliae* move to *Symphyotrichum*. Details of this and other recent NATAG decisions are now available on the Hortax website. Left. *Tilia* 'Emerald Spire', photographed in September.



Cassell's Trees back in print

Due to popular demand, a revised and updated version of *Cassell's Trees of Britain and Northern Europe* is once more in print.

Under the new name *Illustrated Trees of Britain and Europe*, the book benefits from the addition of a number of trees from the Mediterranean region and continues to feature the user-friendly descriptions and excellent drawings that have made it so useful.

New jobs suggest bright future for horticultural taxonomy

The RHS has increased the resources available to the taxonomic study of cultivated plants by establishing two new posts within its Botany team. Dr Kálmán Könyves, who has taken on the role of Horticultural Taxonomist, has recently completed a PhD on the taxonomy of hoop petticoat daffodils and specialises in molecular techniques. "Advances in molecular

Above. Botanist at work in Wisley Herbarium. As well as Herbarium staff, there are now four botanists within the RHS Horticultural Taxonomy team, whose work includes dealing with RHS members' enquiries and editing *RHS Plant Finder*. Recently they also worked on the updated 8th edition of the *Hillier Manual of Trees & Shrubs*; their other publications range from papers on the development of yellow sweet peas to a Flora of the Wisley estate.

technology offer an effective and cheap means of cultivar identification and characterisation," says Kálmán. "I hope also to be able to contribute to an understanding of the origins and relationships of garden plants."

The post of Monographer (as yet unfilled) represents a second investment in taxonomic skills. This role has been created with the intention of producing monographic treatments of genera of horticultural interest.

One further change is the addition to the Horticultural Taxonomy department of Yvette Harvey as Keeper of the Herbarium. Yvette worked for many years in the Herbarium at Kew and replaces Christopher Whitehouse who left the Society in 2014.

Lost Names Project

Indexes to *Bradleya*, the Yearbook of the British Cactus and Succulent Society, and *Flowering Plants of Africa* can now be viewed on the Lost Names Project area of the Hortax website. Compiled by Roy Mottram and hosted with his permission, the indexes offer access to a wealth of information on ornamental plants of arid regions. Also available on the same page are links to a cumulative index of the AGS Journal and *Arnoldia*, the magazine of the Arnold Arboretum.

The Lost Names Project scheme to provide a cumulative index of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* is progressing well, with ten libraries and a further four individuals contributing. It is expected an index of the first decade (1841-50) will go live in 2015; work on the second decade is already under way. Additional volunteer help is very welcome. Visit www.hortax.org.uk/lost-names-project.html ■



SHANGHAI BOTANICAL GARDEN (SHBG) is located in the southwest of Xuhui district in Shanghai and benefits from the pleasant, northern-subtropical, maritime-monsoon climate of the city. The garden was constructed in 1974 with an area of 81.86ha as a comprehensive botanical garden and plays an important role in plant introduction, scientific research, interpretation and public education.

Inspired by the principle of 'Care for Plants, Care for the Future', the SHBG research centre focuses

New camellias from Shanghai Botanical Garden

The breeding programme run by Shanghai Botanical Garden is an important source of innovative new garden plants. Here **Zhang Ya-li** discusses the work being carried out on *Camellia* and characterises four recent introductions.

much of its efforts on landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture studies. Breeding work is undertaken with the ambition of raising beautiful cultivars for future urban landscapes and gardens and recent work has concentrated on camellias, tree peonies, quince and other ornamental plants. To date, applications have been made to gain protection for 30 cultivars through the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China and so far 17 have been granted. In addition, 9 patents have been applied for and 5 have been authorised in China.

Photography. Zhang Ya-li and Li Xiang-Peng.



Camellia innovation is one of the key areas of research at SHBG and has been for more than 20 years. One exciting breakthrough has been the development of new cluster-flowered camellias with mini-flowers and red young leaves, achieved by crossing *C. japonica* with a species from section *Theopsis*. These plants have proved astonishingly long-lasting, floriferous and useful landscape plants. Their foliage and flower characters mean they are suitable for use as spectacular hedges or for ground cover. In addition, they can grow well not only in acidic soil and half shade, but also in weak alkaline soil and full sun. A number have been registered with the American Camellia Society and four of the most beautiful are characterised below.

shining red when young in spring and turning reddish brown in winter, the colour persisting for about one month in Shanghai. Flowers single, pink to pale pink, averaging 1.15in (3cm) in diameter, petals 5, anthers yellow, filaments light yellow. Blooming season is from mid-February to mid-April in Shanghai. This new cultivar is a profuse bloomer with a long-lasting blooming season, suitable to be used in flowering or foliage hedges, ground cover and border plantings.

‘Meiguichun’ (‘玫瑰春’)

Protection No in China: 20120002

DESCRIPTION. Upright with vigorous growth rate. Leaves dark green, shining red when young in spring. Flowers semi-double, rose bengal pink, to c. 1.15in (3cm) in diameter, petals 9-11, anthers yellow, filaments light yellow. Blooming season is from late February to April in

‘Xiaofenyu’ (‘小粉玉’)

Protection No in China: 20120001

DESCRIPTION. Upright with average growth rate. Leaves dark green,

Far left. *Camellia* ‘Qiaojiaren’. Top. *C.* ‘Xiaofenyu’ as ground cover, with (inset) close-up of flowers. Above. *C.* ‘Meiyu’.

Shanghai. This new cultivar is a profuse bloomer with a long-lasting blooming season, suitable to be used in flowering or foliage hedges, ground cover and border plantings.

‘Meiyu’ (‘玫玉’, Sweet Gem)

Protection No in China: 20120054

Register No in American Camellia Society: 2769

DESCRIPTION. Upright with vigorous growth rate. Leaves on average 2.66 × 1.28in (6.8 × 3.25cm), dark green, shining red when young in spring and turning reddish brown in winter, the colour persisting for about one month in Shanghai. Flowers single, rose bengal pink, averaging 1.15in (3cm) in diameter, petals 5, anthers yellow, filaments light yellow. Blooming season is from February to April in Shanghai. This new cultivar is a profuse bloomer with a long-lasting blooming season, suitable to be used in flowering or foliage hedges, ground cover and border plantings.



Above. *Camellia* ‘Meiguichun’, a profuse bloomer, suitable (below) for hedges and ground cover.



‘Qiaojiaren’ (‘俏佳人’, Belle Princess)

Protection No in China: 20120055

Register No in American Camellia Society: 2768

DESCRIPTION. Upright with average growth rate. Leaves on average 2.76 × 1.28in (7 × 3.25cm), dark green, shining red when young in spring. Flowers semi-double, pink to pale pink, averaging 1.15in (3cm) in diameter, petals 9-11, anthers yellow, filaments light yellow. Blooming season is from late February to mid-April in Shanghai. This new cultivar is a profuse bloomer with a long-lasting blooming season, suitable to be used in flowering or foliage hedges, ground cover and border plantings.

Besides these, the possibility of a new generation of weeping selections is represented by the cultivar ‘Pink Cascade’, which has been protected in China and is under application for a Plant Patent in the USA. With this and other introductions to come, it is an exciting time to be involved with SHBG’s breeding programme. ■

Harvesting potatoes

From small beginnings potatoes have risen to become the most important non-grain crop in the world. **Heather Campbell**, Potato Variety Testing and Genetic Resources Manager at Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, reports on her work keeping track of these tasty tubers.

Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture ([SASA](#)) maintains information on over 1,000 varieties of potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) grown in its Reference Collection. Records held on these varieties include pedigree, date of introduction, synonymy, botanical characteristics, disease susceptibility and quality.

The Reference Collection is planted by hand in field plots in April / May each year and a small number of tubers are carefully harvested in August and kept in store until the following year. The collection consists of varieties that are currently grown in Scotland commercially (which include varieties recently added to the UK National List) as well as older varieties that can be classed as heritage varieties. The oldest variety in the collection dates to 1806 and is the famous (or infamous) 'Lumpers'. This variety was grown widely in Ireland and was very susceptible to the disease known as late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*). The consequent massive and widespread failure of this crop was largely responsible for the devastating effects of the Irish potato famine. The variety is, however, still of interest to some hobby gardeners.

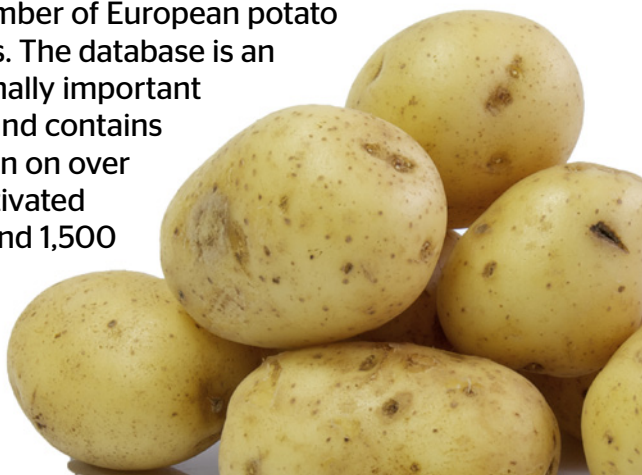
Some other notable older varieties in the collection include:



PHOTOS: RHS / JULIAN WEIGALL (POTATOES ON SALE); RHS / BOB MARTIN (POTATO PILE).

- 'Champion' (1876) – a blight-resistant variety believed to be related to 'Paterson's Victoria'.
- 'Witchhill' (1881) – the first variety shown to be immune to wart disease.
- Epicure (1897) – the "Ayrshire" early is still commercially grown today, albeit in a small area.
- 'King Edward' (1902) – although bred over 100 years ago this variety is still very popular and commercially grown today with nearly 150ha of seed grown in Scotland alone in 2014.

Some information pertaining to the varieties held in the Reference Collection can be accessed from the European Cultivated Potato Database (www.europotato.org). SASA acts as the co-ordinator of the database which contains information from a number of European potato collections. The database is an internationally important resource and contains information on over 4,000 cultivated varieties and 1,500 breeding lines. ■



Sorting out the banana tree

A checklist of the
cultivated *Musa*

Bananas are grown across the tropics under a plethora of cultivar and colloquial names. **Rhiannon Crichton** of Bioversity International explains the efforts being made through ProMusa to bring taxonomic clarity to these impressive and important plants.



PHOTO. RHS / MIKE SLEIGH.

THROUGHOUT THE WARMER parts of the world bananas are a vital food crop and their diversity extends far beyond the cultivar 'Dwarf Cavendish' which, since the 1950s, has been the dominant clone in the export trade. Besides their agricultural and biological significance, many of these banana cultivars have a cultural resonance and bear names evocative of their varied origins, such as 'Pisang Jari Buaya' (Crocodile's Fingers Banana), 'Unungi Gabon' (Fingers of a Gorilla), 'Di Kuku' (Spirit of the Phantoms) and 'Ibanga Ghi Kuduku' (Foot of a Leper).

However, the ease with which banana rootstocks can be transported from place to place and the speed with which they acquire new vernacular names means their nomenclature is often more indicative of the linguistic diversity of the people naming them than genetic variation. For instance, the cultivar 'Poovan' is believed to have 27 synonyms in India, including 'Rasthali', 'Sugandam' and 'Ladiyachampa'. The huge number of banana cultivar names not only adds to the complexity of working on bananas and of communicating research results but also has an impact on the cost of maintaining field and in vitro collections by increasing the number of unnecessary duplicates. Conversely, some vernacular names, such as 'Lady's Fingers', are applied as homonyms to genetically distinct cultivars meaning that potentially important diversity may be overlooked.

Left. *Musa mannii*, a dwarf banana from India, is commonly grown as an ornamental plant. It probably only survives now in cultivation.



The Online Checklist of Banana Cultivars

In order to begin addressing these issues, Bioversity International set up the Online Checklist of Banana Cultivars on Musapedia, ProMusa's compendium of knowledge on bananas. The checklist was launched online in October 2013 and now has nearly 7,000 entries garnered from nearly 100 localities. Where possible, cultivars are attributed to one of 15 informal groups based on ploidy and the surmised genomic contributions of wild species. The number of entries will continue to rise as the literature review continues and new information comes to light.

One important purpose of the checklist is the establishment of an internally coherent list of names indicating which ones are synonyms and which are homonyms. The formulation of the checklist also provides the opportunity to define the concepts of clone set, subgroup and genome group and ensure the classification system is consistent with phylogenetic relationships that have been elucidated since the morpho-taxonomic classification system was developed. These tasks will be addressed through consultations with specialists and crowd-sourcing (users of the checklist can comment on individual checklist entries).

ProMusa is a knowledge-sharing platform on bananas managed by Bioversity International that brings together banana growers and researchers and oversees Musapedia, an online peer-reviewed compendium of knowledge on bananas (www.promusa.org)

Progress through collaboration

The Online Checklist of Banana Cultivars will never be able to provide a definitive account of cultivar abundance and distribution until a number of issues of characterisation, nomenclature and classification are resolved. It is necessary that the community of banana growers and researchers achieves the comprehensive morpho-taxonomic and genetic characterisation of bananas in cultivation, arrives at an internationally accepted name for each banana cultivar, considering synonymy and homonymy, and adopts a common system of classification for these cultivars. The Online Checklist of Banana Cultivars, in combination with other tools, provides a useful means of monitoring and detailing progress towards these goals and promises to finally offer a robust taxonomy and stable nomenclature for this most important and charismatic of crop plants. ■

“ The cultivar ‘Poovan’ is believed to have 27 synonyms in India, including ‘Rasthali’, ‘Sugandam’ and ‘Ladiyachampa’.

Left. *Musa sikkimensis* ‘Red Tiger’ (RHS / Neil Hepworth).

The establishment and progress of the **International Cultivar Registration Authority for Bamboos**

Shi Junyi¹ and Jin Xiaobai² discuss the important work under way to help standardise the naming of a beautiful and useful group of plants.

¹ Professor at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Registrar of the International Cultivar Registration Authority for Bamboos (esjy@163.com)

² Professor at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Member of the ISHS Special Commission for Cultivar Registration (jinxiaobai@ibcas.ac.cn)



WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT of Prof. Chen Junyu of the Beijing Forestry University, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the application for the establishment of an International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Bamboos (*Poaceae*, tribe *Bambuseae*) was made to the Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Science by the Flowers Research and Development Centre of the Chinese Academy of Forestry on 1 April 2012. The application was approved by the Commission on 15 July 2013, filling the gap in cultivar registration for this interesting and diverse group of plants of economic importance.

In order to fulfil the duties and obligations of an ICRA, the International Cultivar Registration Centre for Bamboos (ICRCB) was founded on 18 September 2013, under the charge of Prof. Shi Junyi of the Chinese Academy of Forestry. The purpose of the Centre is to promote uniformity, accuracy and stability in the naming of ornamental bamboos as well as those grown for food (bamboo shoots), timber and material for construction, textile, paper,

Left, from top. *Phyllostachys bambusoides* 'Holochrysa', in spring; shoots of *Borinda papyrifera* CS 1046, an as yet unnamed cultivar; *Chimonocalamus delicatus* 'Hongyun'. Right. *Phyllostachys nigra* 'Boryana', with (inset) *Bambusa vulgaris* 'Wamin', showing the diversity of form within bamboos.

furniture-making, utensils, handicrafts and other uses. The names are registered in accordance with the latest version of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* and serve the institutions, organisations and individuals engaged in bamboo cultivar research as well as facilitating education, development, production, co-operation and information-exchange worldwide. The working languages for registration are English and Chinese.

Over the past year and more, the Centre has made progress in inviting 17 specialists to form the International Cultivar Registration Committee for Bamboos, registering eight new bamboo cultivars and starting the independent bamboo registration website (www.bamboo2013.org; currently in Chinese only, but will also have pages in English, to facilitate international registration). In addition a 13ha International Cultivar Registration Garden for Bamboos (Chengdu, China) has been jointly established.

For horticulture, agriculture and industry a settled nomenclature for the cultivated bamboos is essential and the ICRCB invites all those with an interest in these remarkable plants to help in this effort. ■



PHOTOS: SHI JUNYI EXCEPT 'BORYANA' (RHS / HELEN FEARY), 'HOLOCHRYSA' (RHS / JASON INGRAM), CS 1046 (RHS / TIM SANDALL).

European Cultivated Plant Taxonomists Forum 2015

The first European CPT Forum will be held from Tuesday 7 April to Thursday 9 April at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, UK. The event has three themes - research, databases and cataloguing cultivated plants - with a programme of speakers as below. A full report on the conference will appear in the next issue of *CPT News*.

7 April - Research

MARCO HOFFMAN - Classification of cultivars: customs and needs of different user groups

VALÉRY MALÉCOT - Understanding man-made plants: what do we need to do cultivated plant taxonomy?

DAWN EDWARDS - Hybrids galore! Gardens as biological experiments

MARK SPENCER - Historic botany collections: understanding the domestication of cultivated plants and the evolution of 17th and 18th century gardening

CHRIS STAPLETON - Muddles and misapplications: taxonomic difficulties associated with bamboos in cultivation

ULRIKE LOHWASSER - Taxonomy of plant genetic resources: an interaction of morphological, molecular and phytochemical data

8 April - Databases

TOM CHRISTIE - Approved names, received names and synonyms: keeping track of vegetable varieties for DUS

BJÖRN ALDÉN - Working with SCUD (Swedish Cultivated and Utility Plants Database): a

standard on scientific, horticultural and domestic plant names for the Swedish public, public authorities, educationists, garden journalists, nurseries and breeders

ALAN PATON / RAFAËL GOVAERTS - Global Plant Name data online: their relevance to horticulture

RUPERT WILSON - RHS Find a Plant: using taxonomy to provide a globally unique knowledge bank on gardening and garden plants

MICHEL CHAUVET - Pl@ntUse, a collaborative wiki on useful plants and plant uses

JEAN MAISON - How can we ensure suitability in the naming of over 10,000 new cultivars registered in statutory EU registers every year?

9 April - Cataloguing the diversity of cultivated plants

DANIEL ORTIZ - Plant varieties cultivated in Spain

JULIAN SHAW - Stretching nomenclature: the provision of names in a fecund family

JOHAN VAN SCHEEPEN - Not every name is a name

SOPHIE LEGUIL - Plant Heritage's Threatened Plants Project

KEES VAN ETTEKOVEN - The role of existing taxonomic information in the EU marketing policy

NICOLAS RUCH - The creation of a checklist of cultivated forget-me-not to track down *Myosotis dissitiflora* Baker (*Boraginaceae*)

RHS Garden Wisley, where the conference will be held (RHS / Clive Nichols).



Recent publications in cultivated plant taxonomy

The following is a selection of some recently published books of relevance to the taxonomy of cultivated plants. Please let us know if there are works you wish to see included in the next issue of *CPT News*.

In addition, it is hoped future editions might also feature book reviews, so please get in touch if there is work of yours you would like to be covered.

Clennett, C. (2014). *The genus Erythronium*. Kew: Kew Publishing.

Everett, D. (2014). *The Genus Tulipa*. Kew: Kew Publishing.

Grey-Wilson, C. (2014). *The Genus Meconopsis. Blue poppies and their relatives*. Kew: Kew Publishing.

Utteridge, T. & Bramley, G. (eds) 2014. *The Kew Tropical Plant families Identification Handbook*. Kew: Kew Publishing.

Wiersema, J.H. et al. (eds) (2014). International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (Melbourne Code) Appendices II-VII. *Regnum Vegetabile* **157**.

CPT News

CPT News is circulated free of charge worldwide to over a thousand botanic gardens, institutions, libraries and individuals with an interest in cultivated plant taxonomy. It is a great way of publicising your work and stimulating interest in the classification of the plants that we grow. If you have a news story or article that you would like to contribute, please contact James Armitage (jamesarmitage@rhs.org.uk).

EDITOR. James Armitage.

DESIGN, LAYOUT & PRODUCTION. Richard Sanford.

About Hortax

Hortax, formed in 1988, is a small committee of European plant taxonomists and horticulturists with a professional interest in the classification and nomenclature of cultivated plants.

The committee meets to discuss topics of relevance to the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP) and seeks to find solutions to the plentiful problems presented by humanity's attempts to classify the plants it grows.

Members

James Armitage (Chair)
Saskia Bodegom
Chris Brickell
Phil Clayton
Natalie Iwanycki
Myra Johnson (Secretary)
Sabina Knees
Sophie Leguil
Tony Lord
Valéry Malécot
Victoria Matthews
Lesley McCarthy
Sharon McDonald
Elizabeth Scott
Tim Upson

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@cptaxo

Cover. Bamboo in a Peterborough garden (RHS / Tim Sandall). Right. *Meconopsis delavayi*, painted by Lilian Snelling (RHS, Lindley Library).

